GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL AND MINES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:500
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2002
ILLEGAL MINING OF COAL
SUBODH MOHITE

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited's (CIL) new policy to deregulate its marketing introduced with effect from October 1, 2001 has been kept in abeyance;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether CIL and its subsidiaries has made an indepth study of illegal mining and its impact on the economy of State and company;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures suggested for preventing illegal mining of coal?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR COAL & MINES(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in answer to parts (a) to (e) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 500 for answer on 29.4.2002, askedby Shri Subodh Mohite regarding illegal mining of coal

(a) &(b): Coal India Limited (CIL) tooka decision in June, 2001 to decentralize the system of coal sales to the non-core sector. Accordingly, the coal companies of CIL started the process of framing their sales polices, which were to come into effect from such dates as decided by them. Subsequently, it was also decided to verify the status of the already linked consumers of the non-core sector so as to eliminate bogus linkages and thus ensure coal supply to the genuine units. This exercise of verification has yet not been completed. Meanwhile, the coal companies are working out details of the new sales policies.

(c) & (d): In depth study by Coal India Limited and its coal companies reveals that illegal mining activities are being done in the nature of clandestine extraction and pilferage of coal from the abandoned/disused working or from outcrop regions within as well as outside the lease- hold areas of the coal companies. As illegal mining activities are carried out stealthily and clandestinely, it is not possible either quantify them or to assess its impact on the economy of state/and on the company.

(e): Primarily, it is the responsibility of the State/district administration to take necessary deterrent action to stop/curb illegal mining. However coal companies are also taking the following measures:

i) Intelligence collection.
ii) Round the clock patrolling by company's security force and CISF.
iii) Surprise checks/raids of illegal mining sites by company's security force and CISF.
iv) Erection of fencing/ walls in abandoned/disused workings, drowning of old workings.
v) Dozing and filling up the illegal mining sites, wherever possible.
vi) Blacklisting the trucks, seized, carrying coal from such operation.
vii) Whenever illegally mined coal and implements of illegal mining are seized during the course of raids, the same are handed over to local police stations and FIRs are lodged.
viii) Close liaison is kept with the district and state authorities seeking their help and co-operation in curbing illegal mining activities.